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Recommended Citation

"October 2003 (Vol. 76, No. 5)" (2003). *The Ohio Independent Baptist*. 311.
https://digitalcommons.cedarville.edu/ohio_independent_baptist/311

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*The Newsletter Promoting
Interdependence Among
The Ohio Association of
Regular Baptist Churches*

THE OHIO INDEPENDENT BAPTIST

Vol. 76 No. 5

October 2003

Ohio, On The Go

In this issue we celebrate travel as a vital part of Ohio's history. In her book, Ohio, Ann Heinrichs claims that "transportation was the key" to growth in Ohio (p. 24). Bordered by two natural water routes, with many internal rivers flowing into these, Ohio became the place to go. Over the years, canals, railroads, highways, even airways, have kept Ohio "on the go." Note the references to travel throughout this issue.

Where Are You Headed?

Jesus actually posed the question "Where are you headed?" when He pictured life as two roads. Notice the vivid contrasts He draws in Matthew 7:13-14 about the two roads that stretch out before us in life: "Enter by the narrow gate: for wide is the gate and broad is the way that leads to destruction, and there are many who go in it. Because narrow is the gate and difficult is the way which leads to life, and there are few who find it."

He contrasts their entrances – one gate is narrow the other wide. We must enter the narrow gate individually, one by one, not as a group. Entering the narrow gate is not done collectively as a family or as a church group. Jesus is signaling that each one must have a personal relationship with Him. On another occasion Jesus said, "He who hears my word and believes in Him Who sent Me has everlasting life" (John 5:24). The decision to get on the road to life is an individual decision. Have you decided to enter the narrow gate?

He contrasts their terrain – one road is difficult, the other broad or easy. Road hazards on the way to heaven challenge the hardest of travelers. Difficulties come from Satan and his crew of demons, from an unsaved society that lines the way, and from our own fleshly nature. Putting one foot in front of the other, plodding on, keeping on keeping on – these all appropriately describe the steady effort it takes to progress as a believer. Paul reminded the believers of his day that "we must through many tribulations enter the kingdom of God" (Acts 14:22).

He contrasts their travelers – one road accommodates but a few, the other many. Part of what makes the narrow road so difficult is the paucity of fellow travelers. It can be very lonely! Especially when the



Entering Gallipolis, location of fall OARBC Conference

majority of people are taking a different course. Being in the minority is never an easy experience. The joy of the journey comes not so much from human companions as from the personal presence of the Lord Jesus and His Holy Spirit.

He contrasts their destinations – one road leads to life, the other to destruction. Heaven or hell, the Father's house or the devil's dungeon! The destination makes the right choice obvious! The destination puts into proper perspective the toughness along the way. To head for destruction is downright foolish! The choice should be a no brainer!

On which road are you traveling? Where are you headed? Jesus does leave the choice to us! We must choose to enter one or the other; there are only two choices given. According to Jesus deferred gratification pays off. Choose the narrow road with Christ; you will be glad you did!

Centerville University

Going Places

Ranking fourth in the nation in interstate miles and tenth in total highway miles, Ohio is going places. Four major railroad lines remain active in Ohio in addition to numerous bike paths that have replaced other railroad beds. In addition to these many miles of manmade "go-ways," Ohio is



Full-size replica of Santa Maria on Scioto River in Columbus

blessed with two major natural waterways, Lake Erie on the north and the Ohio River on the south. Surprisingly, more freight moves up and down the Ohio River than travels through the Panama Canal (Heinrichs, *Ohio*, p. 97). And when the St. Lawrence Seaway opened in 1959, eight of Ohio's

Lake Erie ports became international ports. People, food, and manufactured goods have easy access to and from Ohio.

Its value on access and transportation has become the fiber of Ohio's development and importance in the nation. Recognizing the significance of its natural waterways to the north and south, Ohioans spearheaded the digging of two major canals to connect these two — the Ohio and Erie Canal (opened 1832, connecting Cleveland to Portsmouth) and the Miami and Erie Canal (opened 1845 connecting Toledo to the south). Though the coming of railroads eventually put the slower canal traffic out of business, canals had played their part in Ohio's growth and development, numerically and commercially. Ohio's first intrastate railroad ran between Dayton and Sandusky (1850).

While canals and railroads facilitated north and south transportation, roadways also began to cross Ohio. Zane's Trace was built as early as 1797. Ohio's segment of the National or Cumberland Road was completed in 1838, bringing many settlers to and through Ohio. The Ohio Turnpike now crosses Ohio on the north and interstates 75, 71, and 77 facilitate "going" north and south.

But Ohio pioneers not only traversed Ohio by land and sea, Ohioans dreamed of going places by air. Beginning with Dayton's Wright brothers Ohioans took to the air. Orville Wright made the historic 12-second flight in a power-driven

machine on December 17, 1903. In just one hundred years, 23 Ohio astronauts have ventured into outer space, including John Glenn, the first American to circle the earth (1962), Neil Armstrong, the first to walk on the moon (1969), and Kathryn Sullivan, the first woman to walk in space.



Sailing Lake Erie

Going Places! Where are you going? The disciples asked Jesus that question once.

When they knew He was going to the Father's house, they asked, "How can we know the way?" Jesus answered simply, "I am the way, the truth and the life, no man comes to the Father, but by Me" (John 14:5-6).

Someone wrote a tract entitled, "How to Get to Heaven from Ohio." It's actually the same way as it was from Jerusalem — through Jesus Christ and through Him alone.



Cruising the Ohio River—Pastors and Wives Retreat April 2001
Back by popular demand April 26-27, 2004



Coshocton Canalboat on Erie Canal

Answers For Children's Page:

1. Chillicothe 2. Athens 3. Columbus 4. Toledo



Deadline for December OIB
November 15
 email address:
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 or write
 327 East Drive
 Dayton OH 45419

Celebrate!

Congratulations to Walter and Annetta Spieth on 60 years of marriage! The Spieths serve as assistants at First Baptist of LaGrange.

As You Go

From The Canton Area
 by ABWE Missionary Ross Riggs



KSU Students Aid Ukraine Ministry

It came as a surprise when our daughter, Suzanne, asked if her mother and I would present our ministry to her *Management of Family Resources* class at Kent-Stark. Suzanne is a senior majoring in Human Development and Family Studies. She explained that her instructor, Professor Kathie DeMuesy, had challenged the class to come up with a project that would require them to work as a team to plan, orchestrate and complete some form of activity to help others.

Suzanne was never one to be shy. As soon as her professor issued the challenge, she told the class that her parents had worked in Ukraine just recently as part of their ministry as missionaries. That sparked the invitation.

Only God could bring about an opportunity for us to present our ministry, including a gospel presentation to a class of college students. The next class meeting following our presentation, the students met to choose their project. It was unanimous! The students at KSU-Stark were to reach out to help minister in Ukraine!

A flurry of activity followed. There were signs to paint, collection boxes to decorate and advertising to plan. The collection boxes and posters described the ministry of ABWE missionaries in Ukraine and provided a website link to ABWE as well as a list of needs. Next came the biggest challenge. Would other students at Kent see the need for helping minister in Ukraine? The response was overwhelming! Collection boxes across the local campus soon were bulging with items that ranged from cotton balls, toothbrushes and tooth paste to medicines, syringes, coloring books and stuffed animals. All totaled, over 280 items were collected and will soon be on their way to ministries in Ukraine.

God's Word says that with Him, all things are possible. We are thankful for our daughter's willingness to share our ministry with her classmates and to God for His abundant goodness as He supplies more than we could think or ask!

Let your OARBC family know about that "open door" God gave you to witness during your normal routines of life. E-mail: fostoriabaptist@wcnet.org

David Chapman, PO Box 1005, Fostoria, OH 44830



Note: Rev. Ross and Dr. Karin Riggs are part of ABWE's Central and Eastern Europe and Middle East 2020 *Advance Team*. They can be reached by email at: riggsministry@sbcglobal.net. They work regularly in the region as well as presenting ABWE's ministry in Central and Eastern Europe and the Middle East to churches in the U.S. They also work with churches that desire to send short-term teams to this area of the world. First Baptist of Louisville is their sending church.

Sorry, we got it wrong!

In the August issue we described Pastor John Williams, International Community Baptist, Lorain, as having retired from Baptist Church Planters. That is incorrect. He has resigned as BCP National Field Director, but remains an active BCP missionary.



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Men of God 2004

"Coming to the Father"
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Dr. Bill Brown,
 featured speaker



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Featured Areas

Twenty-five churches make up the combined Akron and Canton Area Fellowships. Most of these churches are in the cities or suburbs, but can you guess which church is hidden far away from the bright lights of any city?

Akron Area

On the Go! Almost forgotten, it was the Ohio and Erie Canal that gave birth to Akron, supplying the power for its flour mills and cereal industry.

However, Akron is best known for Goodrich and as the rubber capital of Ohio, providing tires that keep our automobiles on the go. Recently, Akron has opened a trail to the past. The Portage Path is an 8 1/2 mile trail with 52 markers featuring an historic trail made by Ohio's earliest native Americans.



Akron, home to four OARBC churches, *Brown Street Baptist*, closest to Akron University, with Pastor and wife, Bob and Astrida Kuhn, *Highview Avenue Baptist*, with pastor and wife, Dennis and Nancy Gamber, *First Baptist/Green*, led by pastor and wife, David and



The Gambers



The Seymours

Don and Becky Viebranz, and School Administrator Becky Penn.



Don & Becky Viebranz

Cuyahoga Falls,

Graham Road Baptist, led by co-workers, Larry and Joanne Engle, Curtis and Patty Richardson.

Kent, *Grace Baptist*, with pastor and wife, Bruce and Karla Chouinard, Korey and



Larry Engle



The Richardsons

Molly Loughry, lay pastor and wife, David and Judy Spencer, and worship leader and husband,

Sue and Ken Anderson.

Norton, *Norton Baptist*, with pastor and wife, Dwight and Cindy Strickland. Many of you have prayed for their daughter,

Alissa, who struggles with MS.

Rootstown, *New Milford Baptist*, with pastor and wife, Rick and Patti Reynolds,



The Reynolds



The Pattens

and youth pastor and wife, Jim and Stacie Patten.

Tallmadge, *First Baptist*, led by pastor and wife, David and Elizabeth Henry.

Wadsworth, *Youngs Corners Fellowship Baptist*, led by Pastor and wife, Tim and Donna Wright.

Akron Area Church, Faith Baptist, Streetsboro,

with pastor and wife, Don and Beth Workman, blazes a trail for outreach.



The Workman family

In early 2003 *Faith* began airing two different TV commercials on the local Time-Warner Cable channels including ESPS (Fri. & Mon.), HGTV (Saturday & Sunday), and TBS (Saturday night). One commercial features many questions asked by children about God, and the other features a busy businessman providing everything for his family in the event of his death, but not providing for his own eternity. Both 30-second spots conclude with Faith's tag line and voice-over. Pray with them about the effectiveness of this outreach.

In the spring Faith hosted two outreach events for men and boys, a breakfast and spiritual challenge by Mr. George Lilja, former University of Michigan all-American and Cleveland Browns football player and the second annual "Faith Finals Festival," an evening of fun, food, and fellowship, including a challenge from Pastor Workman, and viewing the NCAA Championship game projected on the big screen.

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Canton Area

Canton is best known as the home of the National Football League's Hall of Fame. It also houses the First Ladies' Library and Museum in President William McKinley's former residence.



Alliance,

Mount Pleasant Baptist of Homeworth, led by pastor and wife, Joel and Janet Harriman. Pastor Harriman encourages his people with a weekly newssheet from "Your Happy Pastor."



The Harrimans

Bolivar, *Faith Baptist of Wilkshire Hills*, led by pastor and wife, Floyd and Karen Stanfill.

Brinkhaven, *Tiverton*, currently cared for by Bruce and Barb Butler. *Tiverton* had the unique privilege of having one of the last Ohio circuit-riding preachers who served them for 50 years, until his death in 2001, Pastor Jim Hunter.

Canal Fulton, *Canal Fulton Baptist*, recently called new pastor and wife, Michael and Melissa Joy Harmon, to follow Pastor and Mrs. George Stitz, who retired.

Canton, served by three churches in our fellowship.

Grace Baptist, led by pastor and wife, David and Linda Ryan and Paul and Stephanie Seymour.



The Ryans

Grace hosted a Fall Bible Conference with Dr. David Warren. *Perry Baptist*, served by pastor and wife, Tim and Sherry Teall. *Whipple Avenue Baptist*, served by pastor and wife, John and Carol Moosey.



Dave Warren & John Moosey

Coshocton, *Calvary Baptist*, is currently looking for a pastor.

Dundee,

Lakeview Baptist, led by pastor and wife, David and Nancy Carroll. Pastor Dave also sings in a men's quartet, Four by Grace.



Dave & Nancy Carroll

Louisville, First

Baptist, led by pastor and wife, Ken and Tommi Pugh. Ken also ministers to local service agencies such as the fire department.



Tommi & Ken Pugh

Massillon, Calvary

Baptist, led by pastor and wife Tim and Vicki Mishler, taking steps toward a building program. Note Tim's brother ministering at Millersburg Baptist.

Millersburg, *Millersburg Baptist*, recently called Tom and Toni Mishler to be pastor and wife. How fun for Tom to serve with his brother in the same area fellowship! Toni also made a great worship leader at the Skyview Ladies Retreat.

Rittman, *First Baptist*, led by Brett and Kim Deffenbaugh, recently voted to purchase new property as their first step to a new building.

Smithville, *Pleasant Hill Baptist*, served by a staff of three couples, Stephen and Mary Jane Olsen, Wayne and Malinda Morgret, Kevin and Heather Fath. *Pleasant Hill* has become a major backer for the SouthQwest Church Plant, with Dan and Rebecca Simmons.

Cedarville University

Cedarville University welcomed its largest class ever this fall as approximately 815 freshman students arrived on campus. With this record incoming class, the University has a total enrollment of more than 3,000 students.

Roscoe Smith, director of admissions, said, "This class was one of the largest new freshmen classes among the 52 four-year private colleges in Ohio." Among the new students, 67 percent are from out-of-state, representing 40 states, Guam, and six nations. A record number of African-American and Hispanic students are also in the class.

Cedarville has announced a new program this academic year—a bachelor of arts degree in graphic design. This new major will prepare students for careers in visual communication in capacities such as graphic designer, art director, information designer, design consultant, or communication designer. The first year enrollment has exceeded expectations; classes in the graphic design program are at capacity.

The University has recently been named for inclusion in two select college guides: the 2004-2005 edition of Peterson's Competitive Colleges and the premier edition of The Princeton Review's, *The Best Midwestern Colleges: 150 Great Schools to Consider*.

Ohio Independent Baptist is a publication of the Ohio Association of Regular Baptist Churches

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The OIB is published six times per year by the Ohio Association of Regular Baptist Churches, 327 East Drive, Dayton OH 45419. Subscriptions are \$10-\$15 for one year.

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Scioto Hills is always striving to move forward, but never in disregard of the strong heritage the Lord has given the camp. God's faithfulness and timing have always been perfect as we endeavor to live in view of eternity. As we remember God's truth and blessing we find great responsibility in upholding the purpose of camp. I Corinthians 10:13, "So whether you eat or drink or whatever you do, do it all for the glory of God." As the past grows distant and we anticipate the future, the bridge of the present must span the gap. To continue the integrity of the past we build a Bridge to the Future.

Part of the Bridge to the Future includes an indoor/outdoor heated pool. This pool will be available to summer campers, but also open year-round for weekend retreats as well as men's, ladies' and teen conferences. The Bridge to the Future also includes the Storm Ministry Center. This new center will have full multimedia capabilities and will be versatile to accommodate groups of 25 to groups as large as 300. The project will also include building a number of smaller meeting areas to accommodate multiple groups. Please be in prayer as we raise money for these projects. If you would like to donate financially, please contact the camp at 740.778.3279 and ask for the Director, Matt Pearson.

Upcoming Events:

February 13-16	247 Teen Conference
February 20-21	247 Alpha Conference (junior high)
February 27-28	Junior Advance
April 23-24	Men's Retreat
April 27-29	Senior Saints

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by Jason Stephens, Director of Development and Marketing

These updates are hard to write because it often seems we are writing the same things every time. Kids saved, decisions made, buildings constructed, lives changed, new programs instituted and all kinds of fun. I guess this means we are having a consistent impact on families and kids and God is allowing us to grow! So, the update is that we are still cruising along in this incredible camping ministry!

I will tell you an off-beat story. We have a water cooler in the camp office and we have to replace the five gallon plastic tank that sits on top when it is empty. I, being the newer guy, wanted to help out and replace this for the office staff. I said, "I've done this before—no problem!" So I strutted in, grabbed the five gallon jug and ripped the top off, spilling a small amount of water over the sides. I picked the jug up and proceeded to turn it onto the top of the pedestal. When I set the jug onto the pedestal, the pedestal tipped over and I lost grip of the jug (remember the water that had spilled on the sides?) and dropped it onto the floor. The jug cracked and all five gallons of water sprayed onto the floor! By the time I got the jug to the sink I had flooded the kitchen and not one drop of water was left in the jug!

All this to say that sometimes we get very used to doing things and seeing results and forget that we need to take every situation as a fresh and new experience even if we have been through it before. God is working at the Ranch. We often talk about remembering how blessed we are to work at a place where lives are changed on a weekly basis!

Skyview Ranch Coming Events:
Jan. 9-11 Junior High (only) Retreat
Jan. 23-24 Jr High and Sr High Retreat
Feb. 13-16 Sr. High (only) Presidents Weekend Retreat
Feb. 20-22 Jr High and Sr. High Retreat
Feb. 27-28 Junior Retreat
March 5-7 Jr. High and Sr. High Retreat
March 12-13 Junior Retreat

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PRAISE THE LORD!! As of July 12, 38 campers have made decisions for salvation, 45 for dedication, and 134 other types of decisions. Many of these other decisions have been for campers to BE BOLD (Acts 4:13) in their faith, as that is our theme for this summer. Also as of this date, we have approximately \$157,000 raised for our capital campaign project, with only \$43,000 to go. The Willetts Lodge & pop house are complete, the materials for completing the dining hall air conditioning are here, and now we can begin to plan the expansion and remodeling of our chapel.

THANK YOU for those who continue to give faithfully for this project and for many other designated giving projects.

We still have room at our new youth retreat, "Banished to the Isle," on October 3-5. See you there!!

76th Annual OARBC Conference

"Engaging Our Culture For Christ"

First Baptist Church,
Gallipolis, Ohio
October 20-21, 2003

Guest Speaker: Dr. Bill Brown,
President, Cedarville University

Quiet Time For The Whole Family?

Yes, the whole family in the same passage yet each at their own level of comprehension!

Grades 1-2; 3-4; 5-6; Teen/Adult

For information call
Ken Dady at 937-592-2358
(Kdady @ clubs.wol.org)

WORD OF LIFE
Tools For The Whole Church Family

Ohio Women

For The Sake Of The Gospel

by Susan Johnson

Dear Ladies,

My heart was sobered this Sunday as Joe and Esther Keim, with Mission to Amish People (MAP), humbly presented how God has taught them to serve, to sacrifice and to share "for the sake of the gospel." After describing his excommunication from the Amish church and his shunning by many, including his father, he said with determination and reverent joy, "I can do *that* 'for the sake of the gospel!'" The Keims open their home for people who leave the Amish church, teaching them such living skills as driving a car. After speaking of the dents in his car due to "Drivers Ed," Joe said with a quick laugh, "I can do *that* for the sake of the gospel!" Jesus said in Mark 8:35, "For whoever desires to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life **for my sake and the gospel's** will save it." What are we willing to lose, or freely sacrifice, "for the sake of the gospel?" Time? Money? Things? That's the easy stuff! What about family? Friends? Church Body? Safety? Pride?

Ladies, if God's Word is true, and it is, then we should no longer live for ourselves, but for Him who died for us and rose again. If it is true that our life is but a vapor that appears for a while and then vanishes away (James 4:14), then we do not have much time to live "for the sake of the gospel." If it is true that we will all appear before the judgment seat of Christ and give account of how our earthly lives had eternal value, then why do we give so much time, energy, money, and heart attention to earthly things and relationships that are not "for the sake of the gospel?" Please read Mark 10:29,30.

All things and relationships *can be* "for the sake of the gospel" but are they? What have you and I done today "for the sake of the gospel?" This week? This month?

What can I delight to sacrifice "for the sake of the gospel?" A visit to the unsaved neighbor? Driving for Meals on Wheels and sharing God's kindness? Taking a teenager out for ice cream? Designating one day this week to pray and fast for a missionary family? God's Spirit is most capable and willing to direct your heart. Please listen! God is pleading with us through His Spirit, His Word and His people. Lose your life "for the sake of the gospel" and you will find it!

PRAYER NEEDS:

Our state project, the Ojibway Indians in Kenora – salvation of influential people to share Christ with more Ojibway people, money for the project, openings to teach on three reservations.

Missionaries in Kenora: Carrie Thompson, the Roberts and Syroteuks (Consider writing them a note of encouragement "for the sake of the gospel.")

The Amish Door retreat November 13,14 for God to refresh and revive hearts of women.

Other missionary needs: *Sallie McElwain*— health needs, *Joe and Esther Keim*—God's guidance in ministry to Amish; *Rachael Chambers* (on furlough), speaking at the Amish Door retreat, dental needs and ARC project in Zambia; *Felicia Oana and family* who are back in Romania serving and seeking God's wisdom as to how to reach more Romanians for Christ.

2002-2003 OWMU Officers

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West Moriah WMF

Saturday, October 25

10:00 a.m. - Lunch

Grace Baptist Church
Sunbury, Ohio

Speaker: Sallie McElwain
"Two Hands Can Make a
Difference"

Bring a salad to share



Akron Area Fall Meeting

Saturday, November 1

First Baptist Church of Green

9:00 a.m. - 12:00 noon



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Where Am I?

Directions: Imagine that you are a traveler in Ohio during the 1800s and you must depend on waterways and roadways to reach your destination. Follow the four sets of directions below and name the city each leads you to.

South BethelMid-Bethel

1. My route starts at the northern-most end of the Ohio-Erie Canal. I travel south in a canal boat for about 100 miles. Next I ride on horseback going southwest and travel about 75 miles further to my destination. Where am I?

Map Of Ohio In 1800s



2. My trip begins in Wheeling, West Virginia. I travel 125 miles west in a stagecoach along the National Road. At that point I catch a canal boat which takes me southeast about 60 miles to my destination. Where am I?

3. I start at the southern most end of the Miami Erie Canal and follow the Ohio River about 100 miles east. I next catch a canal boat which takes me about 80 miles north my destination. Where am I?

Legend:

Miami-Erie Canal	
Ohio-Erie Canal	
Zane's Trace	
The National Road	
50 miles=5/8 inch	

4. My journey begins where the National Road meets the Miami-Erie Canal. After traveling 80 miles north along the canal, our boat takes a turn and heads northeast another 50 miles to take me to my destination. Where am I?

Find the answers on page 2

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